

**The Department of Behavioral
Health: Supporting Healthy
Communities**

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Department of Behavioral Health

The new Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) will be established as of October 1, 2013. The vision for DBH is to have healthier communities and promote treatment that is effective and prevention works.

Our objective is to improve outcomes for residents with mental health and/or substance use disorders through a comprehensive system of care that is

- Easy to access and timely,
- Provides a full range of high quality prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services, and
- Promotes healthy behaviors and lifestyles.

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The merger is not a new privatization of government services. The majority of services are delivered now through community-based providers certified by DMH or APRA.

Input points are throughout the merger process to hear from

- Employees
- Providers
- Consumers/clients
- Labor unions
- Targeted audiences
 - Advisory committees
 - Community partners
- General Public

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Planning process includes internal committees

- Operations

- Programs and services

- Policies

- Accountability

About 35,000 adults and children receive services from either the Department of Mental Health or the Alcohol Prevention Recovery Administration

Estimate between 30-50% have both mental health and substance use disorders

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Our goal is that the service system will have the capacity to serve individuals who have co-occurring disorder as well as individuals whose needs are solely mental health and/or solely substance use.

Individualized services including assessments will be available whether a person seeks services for mental health or substance use disorder.

Consumers/Clients are active participants in their recovery. Integrate mutual self-help and peer support.

Provider participation is essential to building a responsive, accountable, integrated system.

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Through the merger process:

- Identify common functions
- Develop right service mix
- Identify gaps
- Build System of integrated care
- Develop a common organizational culture

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As of October 1:

- New Name
- DMH and APRA certification requirements, rules, regulations, policies remain in effect
- Relocation of a small number of staff
- Scheduled training on billing and claims for providers
- A new Table of Organization

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After October 1:

- Continue engagement with partners, in particular, consumers clients and providers
- Continue provider and staff training
- Integrate clinical care
- Consolidate certification requirements
- Make necessary changes to rules, regulations and policies to reflect integrated processes
- Identify and minimize obstacles that discourage access to treatment for either mental or substance use disorders.

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- Information on the activities can be found on the DMH and DOH websites